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Charges filed against "Get Money Team" in alleged retail crime ring

Seven accused of shoplifting, battery of a sales clerk and passing counterfeit money

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Seven Indianapolis women have been charged in an alleged retail crime ring, accused of working together to shoplift at retail stores forming a criminal business association to obtain money. Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced the charges today after five of the women were arrested on Thursday morning.

According to the probable cause affidavit, the group of women called themselves the "Get Money Team" and have been identified in over twenty reported incidents of retail theft in Marion County and the surrounding counties. In addition to Corrupt Business Influence and Theft charges, Battery charges stem from an incident in which, according to the probable cause affidavit, two of the women assaulted a retail sales clerk when the clerk asked to look into a bag after the store security system sounded.

"A priority of our office is the ability to investigate and prosecute not only obvious street level crime, but to also take on sophisticated crime through long-term investigations and use of criminal offenses such as racketeering. These arrests are yet another example of our commitment to vigorously prosecute organized crime rings operating in our community," Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry said.

Two women are also charged with Forgery for allegedly presenting counterfeit \$20.00 bills for the purchase of goods.

The arrests are the result of an investigation by officers with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's Downtown District and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office's Multi-Jurisdictional Offender Strategy Team (M.O.S.T.). The Multi-Jurisdictional Offender Strategy Team prosecutes and prevents property crimes in Marion County and surrounding counties through the work of three deputy prosecutors and an IMPD detective.

"Through ongoing intelligence gathering, it was determined that this group has been operating for approximately ten years as an Organized Retail Crime Group known as the 'Get Money Team.' This group is known throughout their community as the 'Booster.' The group took orders and sold stolen merchandise out of their homes, trunks of their vehicles and hair salons. They believed they could commit these crimes with impunity," said IMPD Downtown District Commander Karen Arnette. "We will aggressively pursue individuals who commit these crimes that cost taxpayers millions of dollars in lost revenue."

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The five arrested and charged are as follows. Two of the women charged remain at large with active warrants for their arrest.

Francheska McGraw has been charged with Corrupt Business Influence (Class C Felony) and six counts of Theft (Class D Felony).

Apiphany Porter has been charged with Corrupt Business Influence (Class C Felony), Battery (Class C Felony), Criminal Recklessness (Class D Felony), Forgery (Class C Felony), and seven counts of Theft (Class D Felony).

Kenya Matthews has been charged with Corrupt Business Influence (Class C Felony) and five counts of Theft (Class D Felony).

Latoya McGill has been charged with Corrupt Business Influence (Class C Felony) and five counts of Theft (Class D Felony).

Veronica Perry has been charged with Corrupt Business Influence (Class C Felony), Forgery (Class C Felony), and five counts of Theft (Class D Felony).

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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NOTE: Charging information and probable cause affidavit in this case is available at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/177223666/Get-Money-Team-charges-and-probable-cause-affidavit>